1058
20 YEARS!
1987-2007
C!N
Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash

...And Three to Gore

If Ashley Williams is earning frequent flyer miles for all of his cross-continuity travelling, he should have one heck of an account balance! A trek into the world of ***Darkman,*** a journey through the realm of ***Marvel Zombies,*** and now a visit to the home of *two* horror icons as Ash crosses paths with the villains from ***Nightmare on Elm Street*** and ***Friday the 13th*** in a six-part limited series, ***Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash.***

How'd the intrepid hero of ***Army of Darkness*** end up crossing over into the WildStorm world of New Line Cinemas' most famous horror stars? "With a little help from my pals! (Is this too much of a ***Young Guns*** reference?!) Anyway, I believe that I pitched *Scott Dunbier* and *Hank Kanalz* about the idea," Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "Now, Scott and Hank are great guys and great friends, but when I pitched them, they asked that we wait a while (a polite way of saying no), as Wildstorm was working on their own launches of the series.

"In the meanwhile, we were fortunate to create a ***Marvel Zombies Vs. Army of Darkness*** crossover—which, thankfully, was *very* successful—and then I believe Scott was pro-active and called us and said 'still want to still do this?' One guess what our answer was!...

At that point, Scott brought in Hank, and Hank was also pro-active in making this happen. He spoke with New Line while we spoke with MGM, a lot of negotiating happened (which trust me, the fans don't care about, they only care about getting the best damn story possible!), and finally, we were able to put this together."

Was it tough to sell two competing studios on the idea of a crossover project from two different publishers? "It would have been tougher, but thank God, the treatment was there courtesy of *Jeff Katz*. Hank let us review it, and it was up to New Line and MGM if we could use it, as well as Wildstorm and us. All *four* of us had to agree. Jeff had knocked it out of the park, and it laid out all of the groundwork for the story. This was the cross-over/sequel that *all fans* would want. It's a dream project, and it comes along once in a lifetime! I know it sounds like I'm being overly nice, but it's *true*."

How did ***Army of Darkness*** writer *James Kuhoric* end up scripting the series? "The proposal was so great, originally Wildstorm wanted Jeff to write it solo, but he was just going in to Fox and was busy as heck. Fortunately, James was willing—honestly, he was a fan of the idea from all of the online fan discussions—and was able to jump in and really sink his teeth in to it. We're lucky we had all of the right pieces falling in to place."

Exactly what is the premise of the crossover series? "The basic idea here was to take Freddy and Jason and match them up against a hero that was worth their while," *Jeff Katz* explained. "I think in both franchises, the characters have been at their best with a strong hero to take on—for Freddy it was Nancy or Alice or the Dream Warriors, and for Jason it's Tommy Jarvis and Tina the psychic.

"In this case, there was only one hero who made sense and that was Ash. It just so happened that he fit perfectly into existing ***Freddy Vs. Jason*** continuity with the presence of the Necronomicon in ***Jason Goes to Hell,*** the film that set up ***Freddy Vs. Jason."***

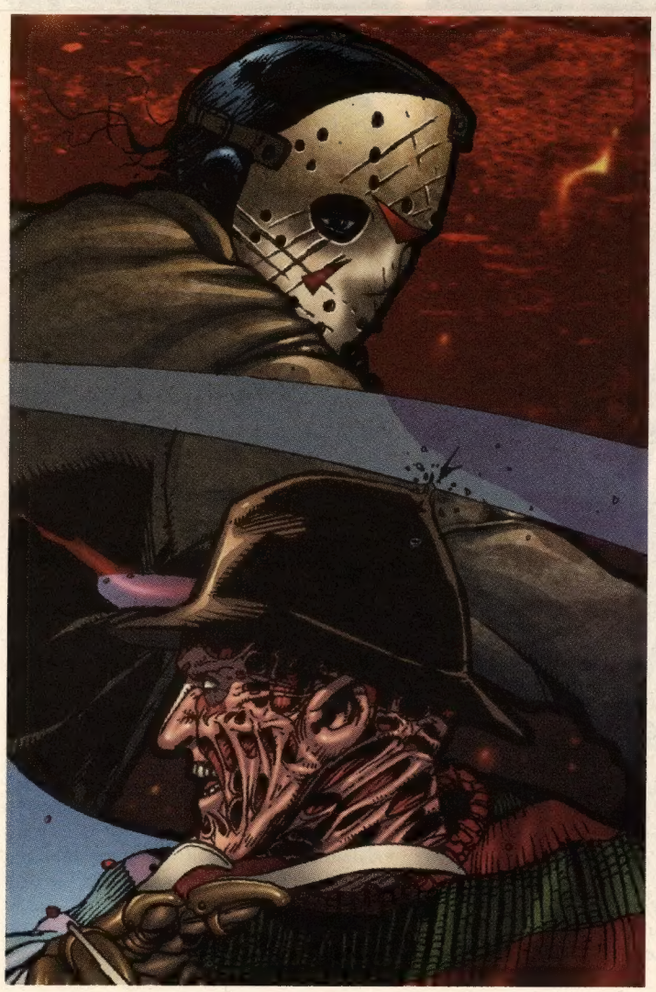
Katz explained how he became involved in the project to begin with. "The genesis of this, at some level, dates back to my time as an intern at New Line. When I first started there my two goals were to make ***Freddy Vs. Jason*** and find a way to bring ***Evil Dead***/Ash back. So even before ***Freddy Vs. Jason*** came out, the Ash idea was being tossed around.

"A few years later I suddenly found myself working on the film, which is really what launched my Hollywood career. After the film opened and was a success, ***Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash*** was our clear first choice for Round Two. At that point, I was asked to get a concept on paper, which ultimately grew into the fully fleshed out treatment that inspired this series. I'm from the same small town as *Sam Raimi* and went to the same high school that Sam, Bruce, *et al* did. So in many ways, even though we were decades apart, I viewed this as something of a Groves High School class project."

For Katz, producing a book like this was a natural. "For me, there was no homework required. I was—and still remain—a *massive* horror film junkie. I knew each of these franchises in and out and have probably seen each entry at least ten times. I can name each of the Dream Warriors, sing Alice Cooper's 'He's Back (The Man Behind the Mask)' from ***Friday the 13th Six*** by heart and recite the full 'Boomstick' speech from ***Army of Darkness***. Yes, I'm that level of fanboy nerd..."

Does the story tie in to established continuity for all three concepts? "The project is extremely respectful towards existing continuity," Katz said. "As has been stated from the beginning, this was planned as a legitimate sequel for all three franchises. The whole idea was to make something that fit these three universes organically."

Are there any limits to what can be done with the three horror icons, or will Katz be able to significantly impact the continuity of any or all of these characters? "The beauty of doing this in comics is that all bets are off," Katz said: "But make no mistake, the entire idea here was to create a story that affected, fed off of, and created new pieces of the existing continuity for the three franchises. I'm hopeful that most fans will see this as a love letter to these three great characters. Everyone involved in this thing is a real fan, from the top down. And that's a real pleasure to be a part of. Everybody is involved for the right reasons and I think that will come across in the finished product."



Are the production logistics on a four-way project like this more demanding than the average licensed project? "Mostly yes, they are," Barrucci said. "Understand, we are all working together. There are levels of approval that take quite a bit of time as you have at least four opinions (and two approvals that supercede us all!), which can be the biggest pain of all—but it pushes us all to think about it more and do a better job.

"Again, we're fortunate. We have a solid base, and have great creators, beginning with *Jeff Katz, James Kuhoric, Jason Craig, Tom Mason, J. Scott Campbell* (on the first cover) and (rounding out the covers) *Eric Powell*. We think we've hit this one out of the park—and ultimately, the readers will tell us if we're right."

As for Ash—well, he's just embarking on his next odyssey, but the folks at Dynamite are already looking into the character's future. "I think he wants a vacation, but where to send him to next?" Barrucci said. "Maybe we'll make it hot as 'hell' for him. Time will tell!"

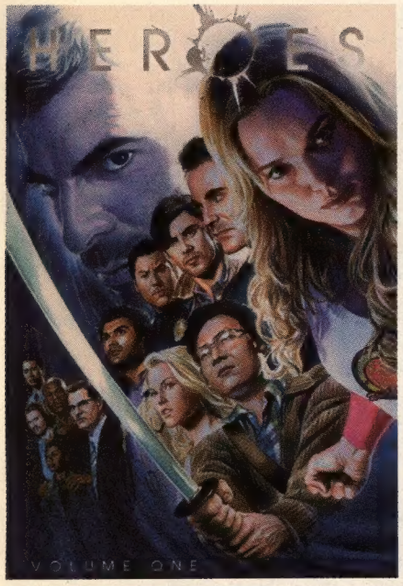
Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash #1, a $2.99 comic by *Jeff Katz, James Kuhoric, & Jason Craig,* is scheduled for November 7th release. The book will be offered with three adjoining covers by *J. Scott Campbell,* each featuring one of the main characters.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com



CSNsider

•Turns out that there'll be *two* versions of WildStorm's ***Heroes*** hardcover, collecting the various on-line comics along with a heaping helping of *Tim Sale* art produced for the series. The mass version, available to all, will feature a cover painting by *Alex Ross;* there will also be a comic-shop-only version featuring a different cover image by *Jim Lee.* Look for both versions in comic shops in early November.

•DC celebrates the arrival of *Tony Daniel* as new artist on ***Batman*** with a special variant cover version of his debut issue, ***Batman #670.*** The 1-for-25 variant edition features a *stunning pencils-only version of Daniel's* cover for that issue.

•Speaking of variant covers, DC is also offering a 1-for-10 variant cover for ***Action Comics #858,*** the first issue illustrated by *Gary Frank.* To mark the occasion, DC has called on Frank to create a second limited cover in addition to the Frank-illustrated standard cover.

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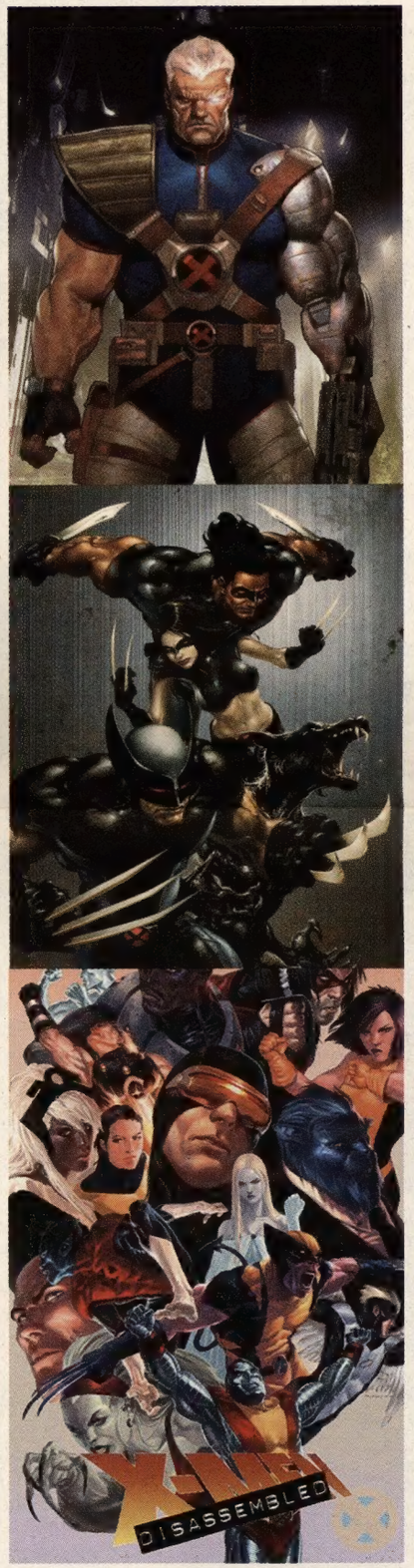
•The Man gets his time in the spotlight in ***Alter Ego #74,*** as *Roy Thomas* spotlights the amazing career of *Stan Lee* on his eighty-fifth birthday. Behind the cover by *Jack Kirby,* this issue features interviews with Stan, lots of tributes, and unseen or rarely-seen art by *Jack Kirby, John Romita, John Buscema, Sal Buscema, Steve Ditko, Gene Colan, Don Heck, Dick Ayers, Joe Maneely,* and many others.

•***Confidential***-ly speaking, DC has some bad news: the final part of the *Darwyn Cooke-Tim Sale* kickoff storyline, originally slated to appear in ***Superman Confidential #6,*** has been taken off the schedule. Instead, the sixth issue will kick off the *Jimmy Palmiotti-Justin Gray-Koi Turnbull-Sandra Hope* Lori Lemaris storyline originally slated for #7. The eighth issue will feature the *Vito Delsante-Julian Lopez-Bit* story guest-starring Alan Scott, which was originally scheduled for #9. And the ninth issue will feature the first part of a three-issue story by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, Chris Batista, & Cam Smith* spotlighting Superman's first encounter with the Forever People and Darkseid. (So what's happening to the Cooke-Sale story finale? It'll appear in an upcoming issue of ***Superman Confidential*** once it's finished...)

•*David Hyde,* until recently the Director of Publicity for DC Comics, has been promoted to Vice President of Publicity. "David has played an important role in raising the profile of DC and of graphic novels," DC Comics President & Publisher *Paul Levitz* said, "and I look forward to his increased opportunity to build our business in his new position."

•***Booster Gold #1*** has sold out at DC; a second printing featuring a recolored version of the original *Dan Jurgens-Norm Rapmund* cover, is slated for early October release.

•Apparently the Avengers weren't the only team destined to be disassembled: Marvel recently released a teaser image entitled ***X-Men Disassembled,*** which apparently spins out of the ***Messiah Complex*** storyline. As a part of the whole ***Disassembled*** event, Marvel will add at least two new series: ***Cable*** (illustrated by *Ariel Olivetti,* replacing ***Cable & Deadpool*** on Marvel's schedule) and ***X-Force*** (illustrated by *Clayton Crain).*



"This will be the single biggest seismic shift in about twenty years of X-Men stories," editor *Nick Lowe* said. "This changes everything. In fact, who's to say that there will even be a group of people who can call themselves X-Men when it's done? What if I told you there wouldn't even *be* an X-Men after the event?" Look for 'em in early 2008.

•The sellouts just keep on coming: ***Justice League of America #12*** has also sold out of its first printing and is going back to press. The second printing, which is also slated to be in stores in early October, will feature a combined version of the two *Alex Ross* covers featured on the first printing.

•Apparently comics *are* for kids! Bluewater Comics has chosen sixteen-year-old *Emma Davis's* "Violet Rose" to appear as a backup story in ***The Legend of Isis: Beginnings.*** (And believe it or not, Davis was only thirteen when she created the character. "It's such a great opportunity," Davis said. "I'm really excited to finally be in print!"

•*Scott Kolins* has signed an exclusive contract with DC. So what'll he be doing once he returns to his former home? "I'm drawing ***Countdown #26,*** but that came about while I am waiting for another DC project to be ready. Something *Geoff Johns* and I will tackle together. something I'm totally excited about..." And of course, you'll know what that something is in the near future, courtesy of ***Comic Shop Newsarama!...***

•***Manhunter*** is still on DC's schedule, but the company doesn't want to solicit for the book until they have enough scripts in house to put the book on a regular schedule.

•DC is working on a new ***Space Ghost*** miniseries as well as a ***Jonny Quest*** miniseries.

•*Mark Schultz* is the focus of ***Modern Masters Volume Thirteen.*** This 120-page trade paperback features a lengthy interview conducted by *Eric Nolen-Weatherington,* along with oodles of artwork, including many rare and unpublished pieces. Look for it in December.

•*Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely's* ***All Star Superman*** arc will run for twelve issues, after which the series will focus on stand-alone stories by various creators.

•The upcoming ***Titans East*** oneshot will lead into a news ongoing series that will star Nightwing, Cyborg, Starfire, Raven, and Beast Boy.

•A deluxe hardcover edition of the *Alan Moore-Brian Bolland* ***Batman: The Killing Joke*** is coming in March of 2008.

•***Booster Gold #1*** has sold out, and a second printing is on the way.

•The hard-to-find ***Time Masters*** series by *Lewis Shiner, Bob Wayne, & Art Thibert* will be brought back into print in a collected edition in 2008.

•Top Cow has signed artist *Michael Broussard* to a three-year contract, and for the duration of that exclusive, he'll be the artist of ***The Darkness,*** joining writer *Phil Hester* for the relaunch. "***The Darkness*** is probably our biggest launch going into 2008 and a pretty good indication how much faith we put into Michael's art and his work ethic," Top Cow Marketing VP *Filip Sablik* said. "Michael's artwork combines influences from *Marc Silvestri, Jim Lee, Dave Finch,* and others, plus Michael's own unique approach into something that's really stunning."

•Marvel will continue its ***Fairy Tales*** projects with *C.B. Cebulski's* ***Avengers Fairy Tales*** in 2008.

•*Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness* and *Greg Pak & Carlo Pagulayan* are all working on the post-WWH ***Incredible Hulk*** series. Two different creative teams—what's up with that? Editor *Mark Paniccia* wouldn't reveal all the secrets, but he *did* say that "Jeph and Ed have been jonesing to do a Hulk-related story for a while now, and this was the perfect time to challenge these guys and show just why they're two of the top creators in the industry. Greg and Carlo have a different story to tell, and I think *both* of these projects are going to be biggest things to come out the Hulk mythos in decades. That's saying a lot because ***Planet Hulk*** and ***World War Hulk*** were *huge* for us, putting the character back on the map and making it a top ten book. 2008 will be a great time to be a Hulk fan. Trust me!"

•While there's no *Allan Heinberg* ***Young Avengers*** project on the horizon, the Young *Avengers are returning in a five-issue miniseries in January, each done by a different* writer and focusing on different characters. The books and writers are include Patriot (by *Ed Brubaker),* Hulkling (by *Brian Reed);* Wiccan and Speed (by *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa);* the Vision (by *Paul Cornell);* and a surprise creator for the fifth issue.

•*Brian Bendis & Leinil Francis Yu* explore the ramifications of the Skrull revelations in ***Secret Invasion,*** an eight-issue limited series that "puts the exclamation point on this Skrull story," as Bendis put it. "The conspiratorial aspects of the story... come to a head in ***Secret Invasion***. Whoever is a Skrull is revealed right away, their plan is revealed and executed, and things are left changed. Once you find out who's a Skrull and who's not, you'll see that it's *impossible* to put things back the way they were." Yu will leave ***New Avengers*** with #37 to work on the series, which launches in April 2008. And lest you worry that it'll be late, Bendis adds that "because Leinil's track record speaks for itself, the book *will* ship on time. I'm of the mindset that it *has* to hit all of its dates. The pieces are so delicate. It has to ship – the reveals are huge, and it *does* affect other books, and I think we all deserve a crossover book that ships on time."

•Dark Horse is working on a major crossover story, ***Star Wars: Vector,*** that will be "similar to ***Civil War*** in scope and style, according to Dark Horse's *Jeremy Atkins.* The series will follow one character as he travels through all four of Dark Horse's Star Wars titles: ***Knights of the Old Republic, Rebellion, Legacy,*** and ***Dark Times.*** How will that work, since those titles span millennia? For that answer, you'll have to read the series when it debuts in 2008!

•*Mike Mignola's* ***Hellboy*** will be collected in deluxe ***Library Edition*** hardcovers in the spring of 2008; each volume will collect two trades in chronological order.

Rock On!

For some, the war never ends.

Sgt. Rock, the hero who has fought the valiant battle for almost a half a century in the pages of various DC war titles, is returning to comics again next year, courtesy of *Billy Tucci.*

Editor *Michael Marts* talked about with ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady.* "Rock is one of those great, timeless characters that will always find an audience, so long as the creative team is top-notch and the story is relevant. In this case we have both. The story that Billy has crafted takes place during WWII—but the themes and events are as real and as captivating as the threats and crises that world citizens face in the year 2007. And I've rarely seen a creator as dedicated to a character and story as Billy is to Rock. He's extremely passionate about this project—and it shows in the work.

"Billy was born to draw this project. His Rock is true to the classic version, but at the same time he's added his own personal touch to it. I think it looks great."

What's the focus of the series? "This story takes place during actual events and battles from World War II...in a nutshell, Rock and Easy Co. are sent deep into enemy territory to retrieve a battalion of lost soldiers that everyone has given up on. Finding the lost battalion is the easy part...but the hardships and trials Rock and crew face afterwards are an entirely different story."

Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion, a six-issue limited series by *Billy Tucci,* is scheduled to debut in the spring of 2008.

Harvey Award Winners Announced

The 20th Annual Harvey Awards were presented in Baltimore in early September; the winners include:

•**Best Letterer**: *Stan Sakai,* ***Usagi Yojimbo***

•**Best Colorist**: *Lark Pien,* ***American Born Chinese***

•**Best Syndicated Strip or Panel**: *Keith Knight,* ***The K Chronicles***

•**Best Online Comics Work**: *Nicholas Gurewitch,* ***Perry Bible Fellowship***

•**Best Inker**: *Danny Miki,* ***Eternals***

•**Best American Edition of Foreign Material (tie)**: ***Abandon the Old in Tokyo*** (Drawn & Quarterly); and ***Moomin*** (Drawn + Quarterly)

•**Best New Series**: ***The Spirit*** (DC Comics)

•**Best Graphic Album – Previously Published**: ***Absolute DC—The New Frontier*** (DC Comics)

•**Special Award for Humor in Comics**: *Bryan Lee O'Malley,* ***Scott Pilgrim & the Infinite Sadness***

•**Best New Talent**: *Brian Fies -* ***Mom's Cancer***

•**Best Biographical, Historical or Journalistic Presentation**: ***Art Out of Time: Unknown Comic Visionaries 1900-1969*** (Abrams)

•**Best Anthology**: ***Flight Volume 3,*** (Ballantine Books)

•**Best Domestic Reprint Project**: ***Complete Peanuts*** (Fantagraphics)

•**Best Cover Artist**: *James Jean*

•**Special Award for Excellence in Presentation**: ***Lost Girls*** (Top Shelf)

•**Best Graphic Album – Original**: ***Pride of Baghdad*** (Vertigo/DC)

•**Best Continuing or Limited Series**: ***Daredevil*** (Marvel Comics)

Best Writer: *Ed Brubaker,* ***Daredevil***

Best Artist: *Frank Quitely,* ***All Star Superman***

Best Cartoonist: *Jaime Hernandez,* ***Love & Rockets***

Best Single Issue or Story: ***Civil War #1*** (Marvel)

•**Hero Initiative Presentation & Award** – Presented to *Joe Kubert*

History Repeats

Back in the 1980s, ***Teen Titans*** writer *Marv Wolfman* introduced an edgy antihero named Vigilante who became so popular that he graduated to his own series.

In 2007, ***Nightwing*** writer *Marv Wolfman* introduced an edgy antihero named Vigilante who became so popular that... well, you get the idea.

Wolfman will be the writer for the new ***Vigilante*** series debuting next year. Editor *Michael Siglain* offered ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady* a little background on the character and the series.

"Very little is known about this new Vigilante," Siglain said. "He's a gun-toting mystery man that we've seen show up in New York City in the pages of ***Nightwing,*** but who he is and what his motives are haven't been revealed just yet.

"Our new Vigilante does not have any connection to Gregory Saunders, Pat Trayce, or Justin Powell...and whether or not he has a connection to Adrian Chase remains to be seen.

"This Vigilante's motives are simple: he's here to mete out justice. There's good and there's evil, and the evil must be punished. It's that black and white."

Siglain explained that this new ongoing series "will definitely be spinning out of the pages of ***Nightwing,*** but you don't have to have read ***Nightwing*** to pick up this new book... though why you *wouldn't* be reading ***Nightwing*** is beyond me!

"Marv was very excited about the possibility of introducing a new, street-level, grim and gritty Vigilante back into the DCU, and when he hit us with his take on the character, and the first giant story arc, we were sold."

The first arc begins when "The Vigilante comes across a murder that hits just a little too close to home for him; when he tries to get even with people responsible he learns an even bigger secret: there is a traitor in the DCU. It appears that a well-known hero has been supplying the underworld with information and weaponry, and it's up to the Vigilante to find the traitor and stop him—or her—by any means necessary."

Will other DC heroes play a part in this story? "Absolutely! Practically everyone in the DCU is a suspect! Why did Vigilante *really* show up in ***Nightwing***? Could Nightwing—or one of the other members of the Bat family—be involved in this conspiracy? And what about the Titans? Or perhaps one of the new members of the Justice Society of America? Or someone from *52*? *Everyone* is a suspect!"

Vigilante #1 is scheduled for early 2008 release.

Top Comics for Oc

ACTION COMICS #858

Geoff Johns (W); Gary Frank (A)

(DC AUG070236 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Fresh from their history-making appearance in "The Lightning Saga," the original Legion of Super-Heroes returns... but where have they been, and why haven't they dropped in on Superman until now?

Why Should You Care?

Ever since they played a part in the storyline that brought back Wally West, fans have clamored for more of the *real* Legion... and DC has been listening! And if that's not enough, the debut of artist *Gary Frank* should make this a must-have.

AUTHORITY PRIME #1

Christos Gage (W); Darick Robertson (A)

(WildStorm/DC AUG070309 $2.99)

MIDNIGHTER: ARMAGEDDON #1

Christos Gage (W); Simon Coleby (A)

(WildStorm/DC AUG070306 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Stormwatch Prime has cracked Henry Bendis' encrypted "memory tower," leading to the discovery of a mysterious bunker in the Southwestern desert. But there's someone else who'd like to take control of whatever's in that bunker—and the Authority isn't accustomed to having their wishes ignored!

Why Should You Care?

Christos Gage brings back the Authority at long last—and unlike the prior aborted resurrection of the team, DC promises that this one won't fizzle out before it even begins! (Authority fans will also enjoy Gage's bonus glimpse into the world of the Authority in the ominous ***Midnighter: Armageddon.)***

BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS #1

Tony Bedard (W); Koi Turnbull (A)

(DC AUG070205 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (AUG073610 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

The Justice League may epitomize the rules by which superheroes operate, but Batman's *other* super-team is far less hampered—they'll do whatever the situation calls for!

Why Should You Care?

A new lineup, a new creative team, and a new leader makes this a very different ***Outsiders*** indeed!

COUNTDOWN: SEARCH FOR RAY PALMER—CRIME SYNDICATE #1

Sean McKeever (W); Jamal Igle & Rob Hunter (A)

(DC AUG070202 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The search for Ray Palmer takes the Challengers from Beyond to a world where the heroes are villains... but what does that make the bad guys?

Why Should You Care?

The first-class tour of the new DC Multiverse continues in the latest of a series of reality-hopping one-shots.

DEATH OF THE NEW GODS #1 & 2

Jim Starlin (W/A)

(DC AUG070209 & 211 $3.50@; #1 also available in a signed edition (AUG073613 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Readers of ***Countdown*** have already witnessed the demise of one New God—and now it appears that the carnage has only just begun!

Why Should You Care?

Jim Starlin plays havoc with *Jack Kirby's* Fourth World in this eight-part *tour de force* that reshapes New Genesis and Apokolips forever! And when it comes to killing characters with style and class, there's no one better at it than Starlin!

FANTASTIC FOUR #551

Dwayne McDuffie (W); Paul Pelletier (A)

(Marvel AUG072216 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A hero from the future travels back to the present to save his world from the monster known as Reed Richards. Who is this hero? Why, none other than Doctor Doom!

Why Should You Care?

See how Reed Richards' actions today may have ominous effects on the Marvelverse twenty years from now in this thought-provoking tale that brings back the most popular villain in the Marvelverse.

FOOLKILLER #1

Gregg Hurtwitz (W); Lan Medina (A)

(Marvel MAX AUG072274 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Think the Punisher is rather intolerant fellow? Just wait 'til you meet the Foolkiller! He's turned vigilantism into performance art, and he has a *killer* punch line.

Why Should You Care?

Best-selling author *Gregg Hurtwitz* makes his comic book debut with this gritty extremist crime drama that reinvents one of the 1970's more eccentric characters.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN #24

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Joe Quesada (A)

(Marvel JUL072140 $3.99)

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #41

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Joe Quesada (A)

(Marvel AUG072202 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Aunt May is hanging on by a thread... Peter Parker's life is in turmoil... there's no one left to turn to... so what will Peter do? There'll be hell to pay before it's all over!

Why Should You Care?

For many months now, *Joe Quesada* has been hinting that big changes are coming to the Peter-Mary Jane relationship... Well, here they are—and it's bigger than anyone anticipated!

GREEN ARROW/ BLACK CANARY #1

Judd Winick (W); Cliff Chiang (A)

(DC AUG070207 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

The Wedding is over, and now the happily married couple embarks on a new life in a new series that picks up where the ***Wedding Special*** left off.

Why Should You Care?

Welcome DC's premiere superheroic couple as they kick off the next phase of their lives.

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #10

Geoff Johns & Alex Ross (W); Dale Eaglesham (A)

(DC AUG070251 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Not a hoax. Not a dream. Not an imaginary story. (Okay, it *is* an imaginary story in the sense that they're *all* imaginary stories, but you know what we mean...) The ***Kingdom Come*** Superman joins the Justice Society!

Why Should You Care?

Not only is the ***Kingdom Come*** Superman about to play a major role in the mainstream DC Universe, but his debut in this world is co-piloted by ***Kingdom Come*** artist/co-creator *Alex Ross*, who joins writer *Geoff Johns* to tell the story that they've planned since they launched the series in 2006.

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MARVEL ZOMBIES 2 #1

Robert Kirkman (W); Sean Phillips (A)

(Marvel AUG072242 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (AUG073617 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Forty years after their hunger for destruction took them into the stars, the zombies are coming back home—but what awaits them is beyond anything that these zombified heroes could have imagined!

Why Should You Care?

Are you ready for... Marvel Zombies Civil War?

METAMORPHO YEAR ONE #1

Dan Jurgens (W/A)

(DC AUG070213 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Adventurer Rex Mason thinks he has the good life—a great job, celebrity status, and more excitement than anyone could hope for. But his life is about to be transformed into something entirely different when he heads to Egypt in search of the mysterious Orb of Ra...

Why Should You Care?

Dan Jurgens expands on the origins of one of DC's quirkiest and most memorable heroes. If you've enjoyed Metamorpho in ***Outsiders,*** just wait 'til you see how he ended up this way!

OMEGA THE UNKNOWN #1

Jonathan Lethem & Karl Rusnak (W); Farel Dalrymple & Paul Hornscheimeier (A)

(Marvel AUG072249 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

He's a mute hero from another planet, and he shares an unbelievable destiny with an earthly teenager. In order to find out what that destiny is, though, they'll have to survive an onslaught of robots and nanoviruses that have been dispatched to hunt them down!

Why Should You Care?

Best-selling author *Jonathan Lethem* revitalizes the short-lived cult-favorite hero created almost a third of a century ago by *Stever Gerber & Mary Skrenes.*

SIMON DARK #1

Steve Niles (W); Scott Hampton (A)

(DC AUG070230 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (AUG073618 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Gotham City has a new defender... but he's not your ordinary superhero—and he's not afraid to get his hands bloody! If you thought that Batman struck fear into the hearts of criminals, just wait 'til you meet Simon Dark...

Why Should You Care?

Steve Niles brings his distinctive horror stylings to the DCU in this monster-meets-superhero tale.

STAR TREK ALIENS SPOTLIGHT: VULCANS

Rick Remender (W); Josep Maria Bery (A)

(IDW AUG073759 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A Starfleet starship arrives on a planet that's heading down the road to self-destruction... but what is the link between this once-peaceful society and the turbulent past of the ultra-logical Vulcans?

Why Should You Care?

The folks at IDW continue to channel their inner Roddenberries with these true-to-the-original-concept oneshots spotlighting the alien races that populate the Trekverse.

SWORD #1

Luna Brothers (W/A)

(Image AUG071971 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A young college student's mundane day takes a surprising turn when three strangers knock on her door, looking for a unique sword. From there, things get *very* weird...

Why Should You Care?

The Luna Brothers, acclaimed creators of ***Ultra*** and ***Girls,*** take a detour into the world of adventure-fantasy with this edgy series.

TALES OF THE SINESTRO CORPS: CYBORG SUPERMAN #1

Alan Burnett (W); Patrick Blaine & Jay Leisten (A)

(DC AUG070224 $2.99)

TALES OF THE SINESTRO CORPS: SUPERMAN PRIME #1

Geoff Johns & Sterling Gates (W); Pete Woods & Jerry Ordway (A)

(DC AUG070223 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

One of them nearly destroyed the universe. The other is a mechanical monstrosity whose very existence is a perversion of the Superman canon. And they're both a part of the Sinestro Corps.

Why Should You Care?

The villainy of the Sinestro Corps is explored in these spinoff oneshots that are a must-have for fans of the mega-hit "Sinestro Corps War" saga.

VINYL UNDERGROUND #1

Si Spencer (W); Simon Gane & Cameron Stewart (A)

(Vertigo/DC AUG070328 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

An unlikely quartet of antiheroic occult detectives secretly solve crimes in modern London in this dark series. Sounds like the stuff of which Vertigo was made, doesn't it? You betcha!

Why Should You Care?

Torchwood writer *Si Spencer* takes a dash of that cult-fave Brit hit, a bit of ***Hellblazer,*** and a pinch of ***CSI,*** blends well, and serves with a twist.

X-MEN: DIE BY THE SWORD #1

Chris Claremont (W); Juan Santacruz (A)

(Marvel AUG072271 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Exiles and Excalibur join forces to save crosstime from the combined might of several of Excalibur's most dangerous foes.

Why Should You Care?

Chris Claremont brings together two of mutantdom's most distinctive super-teams in this reality-spanning miniseries.

X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

Ed Brubaker (W); Marc Silvestri (A)

(Marvel AUG072258 $3.99; also available in a signed edition (AUG073621 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Just when it appeared that there was no future for Marvel's mutant, hope arrives... but the Marauders and the Purifiers find out about it first, and the race is on to locate the first new mutant born into the Marvelverse since ***House of M!***

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker & Marc Silvestri kick off a major mutant saga that will continue into virtually every X-Men title for the next few months. This is the big event that X-fans have been waiting for!

Collected Cool: October's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE SANDMAN VOL 2 HC

(Vertigo/DC JUN070259 $99.00)

This beautiful slipcased hardcover collects ***Sandman #s 21-39,*** featuring remastered coloring on all 19 issues as well as brand-new inks on ***Sandman #34*** by the issue's original penciller, *Colleen Doran,* and a host of bonus material (including two never-before-reprinted stories by Gaiman—one prose and one illustrated), a complete reproduction of the never-before-reprinted one-shot ***Gallery of Dreams,*** and the complete script and pencils by Gaiman and *Kelley Jones* for Chapter Two of 'Season of Mists' from ***Sandman #23.***

COMPLETELY MAD DON MARTIN HC

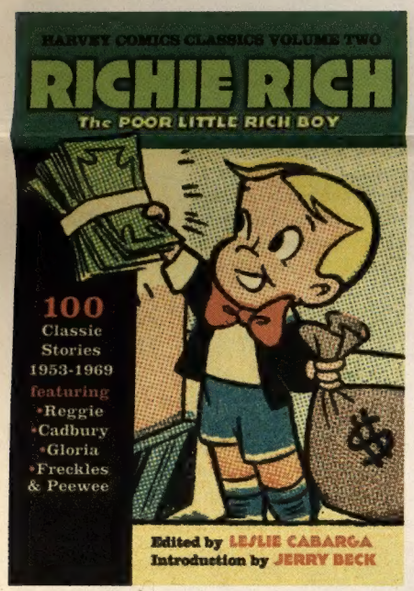
(Warner JUL074074 $150.00)

The artist that every adolescent boy learned to imitate gets his long-deserved due! This hefty volume collects every single piece produced for ***Mad Magazine*** by the incomparable *Don Martin.*

EC ARCHIVES: VAULT OF HORROR VOLUME 1 HC

(Gemstone AUG073676 $49.95)

EC's second great horror tale comes back into print with the release of this hardcover featuring full-color versions of six classic EC comics, featuring work by *Johnny Craig, Wally Wood, Harvey Kurtzman, Graham Ingels, Jack Davis* and others.



HARVEY COMICS CLASSICS VOL 2: RICHIE RICH TP

(Dark Horse JUN070036 $19.95)

What an all-ages bonanza! This hefty compendium includes more than one hundred classic stories of the poor little rich kid as presented by *Warren Kremer, Ernie Colon, & Steve Muffatti.*

TINTIN HARDCOVER BOXED SET

(Little Brown and Company JUL073717 $150.00)

All twenty-four *Herge* classics are collected in this deluxe boxed set.

YOUNGBLOOD VOL 1 HC

(Image AUG071974 $34.99)

Rob Liefeld's original series comes back into print, remastered and reworked by Liefeld and *Joe Casey*... and it paves the way for the debut of a new ***Youngblood*** series in 2008.

Check 'Em Out:
Books You Should Be Reading

BEOWULF #1

(IDW AUG073723 $3.99)

BEOWULF #2

(IDW AUG073725 $3.99)

BEOWULF #3

(IDW AUG073727 $3.99)

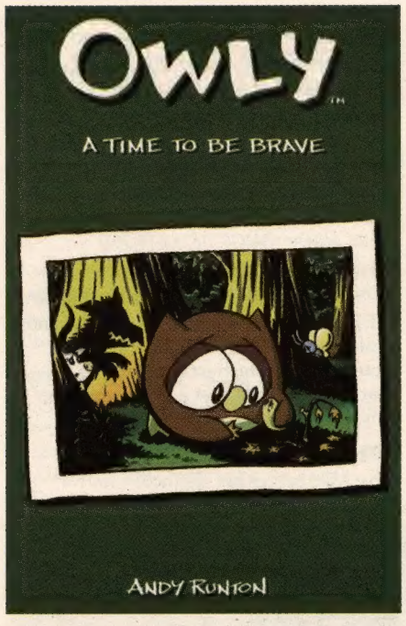
BEOWULF #4

(IDW AUG073729 $3.99)

BEOWULF TP

(AUG073731 $17.99)

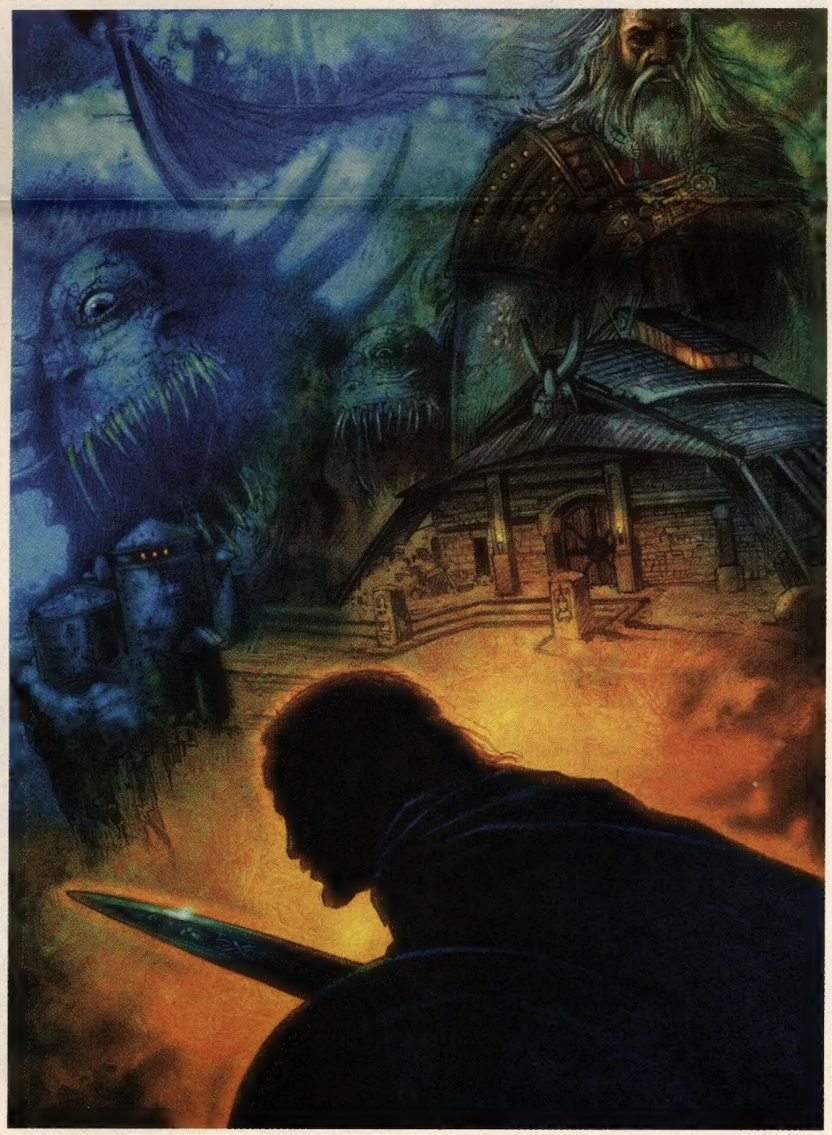
Enjoy the adaptation of the *Neil Gaiman*-scripted film in either a weekly comics series (which includes material not in the trade edition) or in a collected version and discover what makes this Anglo-Saxon epic one of world literature's classics.



OWLY VOL 4: DON'T BE AFRAID TP

(Top Shelf AUG074028 $10.00)

Comic book fans of all ages can enjoy this charming wordless graphic novel, the fourth in the series by Andy Runton.



FACTS IN THE CASE OF THE DEPARTURE OF MISS FINCH HC

(Dark Horse JUN070038 $13.95)

Absolute Sandman, Beowulf, and now this—October is shaping up to be quite the Gaiman-fest! This hardcover graphic novel adapts the *Neil Gaiman* short story, rewritten for this edition, with art by *Michael Zulli.*

SIGNAL TO NOISE 2ND ED HC

Neil Gaiman (W); Dave McKean (A)

(Dark Horse JUN070039 $24.95)

It's that Gaiman guy once again, back with a remastered, expanded, & redesigned version of his acclaimed graphic novel produced with ***Sandman*** cover artist *Dave McKean.*

SPECTRUM PRESENTS COMIC ART OF FRANK FRAZETTA HC

(Underwood AUG074223 $39.95)

Readers familiar with Frazetta only because of his stunning cover paintings might be surprised to learn that the master also produced several comic book stories over a two-decade period. This volume offers an impressive cross-section of that rarely-seen comics work.

YEARBOOK STORIES 1976-1978

(Top Shelf AUG074029 $4.00)

If you have any memories of your high school years, you'll find much to appreciate in this pair of autobiographical stories based *Chris Staros'* formative high school experiences.

3 MINUTE SKETCHBOOK TP

(Hero Initiative AUG073709 $12.99)

Featuring a heaping helping of sketches produced by top talents in three minutes or less.

Hot Commodities:
October's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN AND SON BATMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR070288 $19.99)

BATMAN AND SON JOKER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR070291 $19.99)

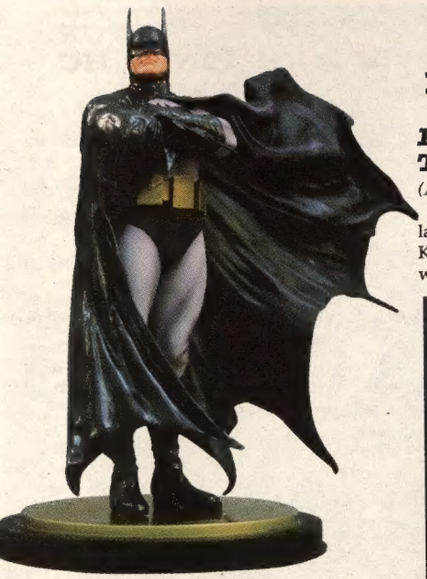
BATMAN AND SON NINJA MANBAT ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR070289 $19.99)

BATMAN AND SON ROBIN/DAMIAN 2 PACK

(DC Direct MAR070290 $19.99)

Artist *Andy Kubert* designed this figure series based on the best-selling storyline he produced with writer *Grant Morrison.*



BATMAN STATUE: DARK CRUSADER

(DC Direct MAR070285 $195.00)

Sculptor *Adam Beane* captures the look and feel of the iconic poster by *Alex Ross* in this stunning sculpture.

IRON MAN MINI BUST 3-PK (RETRO/ SILVER/GRANOV)

(Bowen JUL074544 $120.00)

Three more versions of Tony Stark's ever-changing armor are presented in this sure-to-sell-out three pack featuring Retro Iron Man, the Silver Centurion, and the Adi Granov version of the Armored Avenger.

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

KIRBY: KING OF THE COMICS HC

(Abrams JUL074078 $40.00)

It's been years in the making, but it's here at last—sort of! This is the first of two versions of the Kirby bio by *Mark Evanier*, told by the man who worked closely with the King for many years. (Don't wait on the expanded edition—but it now! The long version may take years more—and it'll be worth buying it again when it *does* come out.)

WILL EISNER: LIFE IN PICTURES HC

(Norton JUL073966 $29.99)

Will Eisner presented parts of his own life in graphic novel form in various works, and now W.W. Norton has compiled some of those most autobiographical offerings in this volume that features ***The Dreamer, To the Heart of the Storm, The Name of the Game***, and two shorter pieces.

TINTIN & SECRET OF LITERATURE HC

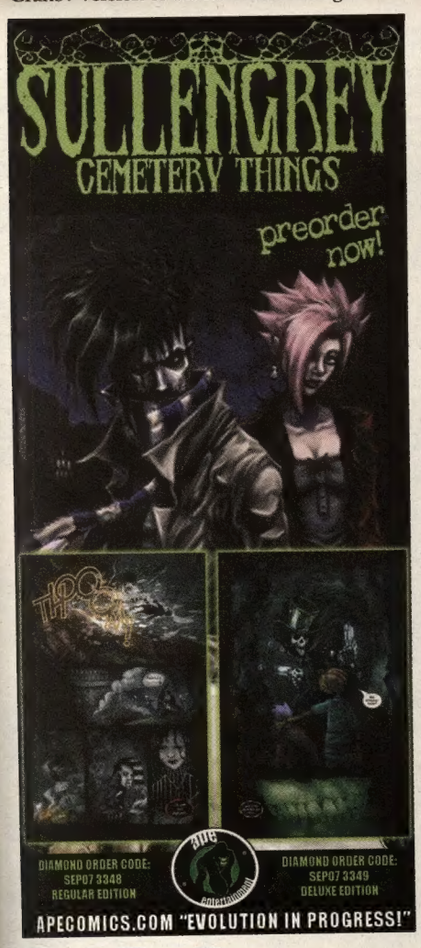
(Granta AUG074226 $29.95)

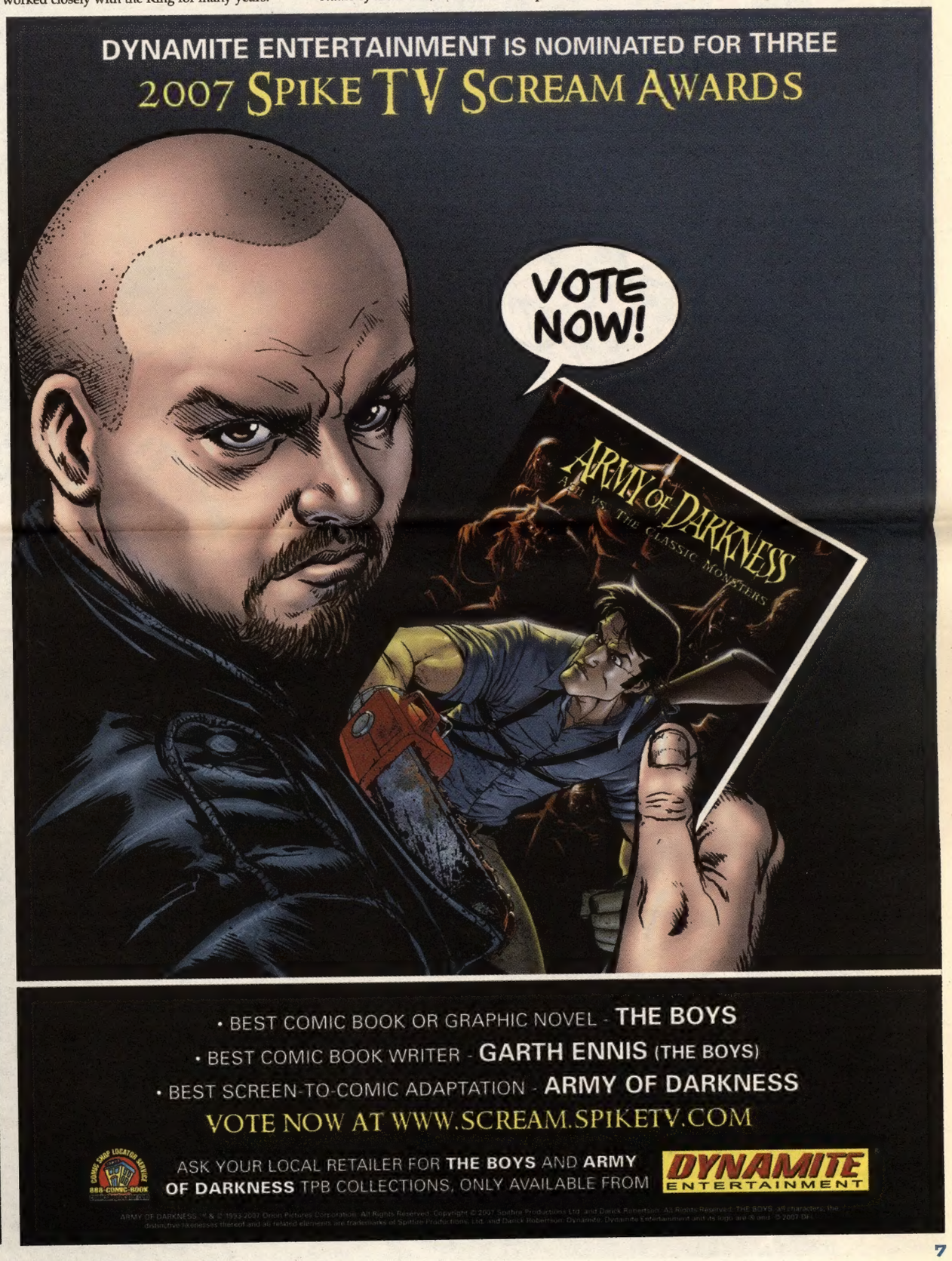
Tom McCarthy looks at the influences and themes behind *Herge's* ***Tintin***.

MODERN MASTERS VOLUME 14: FRANK CHO

(TwoMorrows AUG074034 $14.95)

Spotlighting the work of acclaimed illustrator & ***Liberty Meadows*** creator *Frank Cho*.

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